

CLAIMS:

1. A system (10) for representing a user in an electronic system (30) comprising:
 - means (15) for obtaining an image (12) including an image of a target person (22);
 - means (18,20) for processing said obtained image, said means for recognizing a facial feature associated with said target person (22) in said image and extracting that target person's facial portion (22A) from said image;
 - means (45) for displaying said extracted target person's facial portion in an electronic system display device to represent that target person's connection to said electronic system (30).
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for obtaining an image includes an image capture device such as a camera (15) adapted to generate a still image or full motion image sequence.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for processing includes an image recognition device for receiving a digital stream (18) embodying said image and applying facial recognition technique to extract a target person's facial portion image.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein a time for taking an image from said capture device is determinable at a moment when a target person (22) is smiling or when a target person is gazing towards a image capture device.
5. The system of claim 3, wherein said displaying means utilizes said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) as an icon (22b) for representing said target person via a display interface (45) associated with said electronic system (30).
6. The system of claim 5, wherein said icon (22b) including said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) is immediately or subsequently imported to said electronic system (30).
7. The system of claim 2, further comprising memory storage device (25) for storing said extracted target person's facial portion image (22a), in addition to contextual data associated with said image.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein said contextual data includes meta data including time, place, and image capture device implemented.

9. A method for representing a user in an electronic system (30) comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining an image (12) including an image of a target person (22);
- b) processing (20) said obtained image including recognizing a facial feature associated with said target person in said image and extracting that target person's facial portion (22a) from said image; and,
- c) displaying (45) said extracted target person's facial portion in an electronic system (30) display device to represent that target person's connection to said electronic system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step a) of obtaining an image includes implementing an image capture device (15) such as a camera adapted to generate a still image or full motion image sequence.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the processing step b) includes the step of implementing an image recognition device (20) for receiving a digital stream (18) embodying said image and applying facial recognition technique to extract an image corresponding to the target person's facial portion (22a).

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said step a) of obtaining (15) an image includes the step of programming a time for taking an image from said capture device at a moment when a target person (22) is smiling or when a target person is gazing towards a image capture device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said displaying step includes utilizing said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) as an icon (22b) for representing said target person via a display interface (45) associated with said electronic system (30).

14. The method of claim 13, further including the step of immediately or subsequently importing said icon (22b) including said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) to said electronic system (30).

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing said extracted target person's facial portion image, in addition to contextual data associated with said image, in a memory storage device (25).

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said contextual data includes meta data including time, place, and image capture device implemented.

17. A computer program product for representing a user in an electronic system (30) comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining an image (12) including an image of a target person (22);
b) processing (20) said obtained image including recognizing a facial feature associated with said target person in said image and extracting that target person's facial portion (22a) from said image; and,

c) displaying (45) said extracted target person's facial portion in an electronic system (30) display device to represent that target person's connection to said electronic system.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the step a) of obtaining an image includes implementing an image capture device (15) such as a camera adapted to generate a still image or full motion image sequence.

19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the processing step b) includes the step of implementing an image recognition device (20) for receiving a digital stream (18) embodying said image and applying facial recognition technique to extract an image corresponding to the target person's facial portion (22).

20. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein said step a) of obtaining (15) an image includes the step of programming a time for taking an image from said image capture device at a moment when a target person (22) is smiling or when a target person is gazing towards a image capture device.

21. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said displaying step includes utilizing said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) as an icon (22b) for representing said target person via a display interface (45) associated with said electronic system (30).

22. The computer program product of claim 21, further including the step of immediately or subsequently importing said icon (22b) including said extracted target person's facial portion (22a) to said electronic system (30).

23. The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising the step of storing said extracted target person's facial portion image, in addition to contextual data associated with said image, in a memory storage device (25).

24. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said contextual data includes meta data including time, place, and image capture device implemented.